The Drawing Power of Jesus

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John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."

from

INTRO. Far be it for me to try and explain to you how the death of Jesus on the Cross so lifts him up as to draw all men unto him. I'll leave that to the theologians- altho most any bright lad can ask more questions in an hour concerning the doctrines that center around the Cross than the theologians can answer in a lifetime.

All the explanations of the Cross and the Empty Tomb that I have ever read or listened to or studied have never satisfied me nearly so much as the simple explanation that Jesus Christ himself in his person is the fullest understanding of his death and resurrection. They do not explain him- he explains them! It is true that his teachings and his works throw some light on the personality of Jesus, but in a far truer sense we grasp his teachings and understand his works best of all by knowing Jesus himself.

Buddhism is the religion of a method, mohemmadis the religion of a book, but Xty is the religion of a person. That person is Jesus Christ. Whoever accept Xty enters him; whoever learns its lessons learns him; whoever feeds upon its nourishment eats his body and drinks his blood. Jesus himself is the heart and soul and dynamic of the Xn religion.

I cannot tell you how or why he is any more than I can explain to you a mother's love or why a thing is beautiful or what is life itself.

But this I do know that the crucified and risen Christ has the power of drawing men from all ranks and races unto himself.

The magnetic crane in a western manufacturing plant drew from the ground thousands pounds of iron that had long been buried there, bringing to light many lost parts that had disappeared. I cant expalin to you what magnetism is, but this I do know that it has the power of attracting certain things such as iron.

I cant explain Christ, but this I do know that

he draws steel-hearted men buried in the mire of selfishness and sin and brings them to the light and warmth of God's love.

I. For one thing, the demands of Jesus are reasonable. He does not ask of any man that which does not commend itself to brain and heart and conscience. He does not ask for anything except for our lasting good.

When Nahash the Amorite came up against Jabesh-Gilead and its inhabitants proposed to surrender, he said that he would not make a covenant with them unless he could put out all their right eyes.

The Gospel of Jesus makes no such unreasonable demands of anyone. "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."

II. The drawing power of Jesus is an influence that brings to us the very help we need.

He redeems and saves. He makes the blind to see, the lame to walk. He heals the sick and raises the dead from their sins. He enables one to find himself and harmoniously relate himself to God. He makes a person a new creature, as it were, to life and all creation become full of meaning and understanding.

III. Christ brings peace and happiness and joy to all who accept him. All meanness and bitterness and discontent disappear when Christ comes into one's life. With Jesus we cannot hate, we must love.

IV. The influence of Jesus Christ in our lives makes us hopeful. In the presence of Jesus there is no room for despair and discouragement. In him we believe in life and immortality. In him we find ourselves in God, lifted above the sordid and transient things of earth into the realm of eternal realities and everlasting life. Jesus makes our span of life more than a few days or a few years by imparting to us a quality of life that is imperishable.

Dr. Chamberlain at Hyderabad, threatened to be stoned to death